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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JURIED SHOW HIGHLIGHTS CONTEMPORARY ALASKA ART

Juneau residents and visitors have the opportunity to view the most current and cutting-edge art being made in Alaska as the 32nd All Alaska Juried Art Exhibition goes on display at the Alaska State Museum. Encompassing a variety of works, from paintings and sculptures to photographs and embroidery, the biennial show opens Friday, February 6, with a reception hosted by The Friends of the Alaska State Museum from 4 to 7 p.m. The exhibit will be on view through March 21.

Organized and mounted last fall by the Anchorage Museum, the Juried Art Exhibition was chosen by curator Jari-Pekka Vanhala of the Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art in Helsinki, Finland. Vanhala gave the \$1,000 "Best Of Show" award to Stron Softi of Ketchikan for a large photographic work titled "Not for Sale Poster 1, Sliver Hand, Silver Spooner Organ Grinder."

Vanhala selected the exhibition from 573 pieces submitted by 177 artists from around Alaska. The final selection included 67 works by 34 artists. Of these, 38 artworks are in the Juneau show.

Additional awards of \$500 each went to Deland Anderson, Homer; Anne Aube, Palmer; Samantha Elliott, Palmer; Denise Heimel, Wasilla; Bonnie Landis, Anchorage; and David Rosenthal, Cordova.

In his juror's statement, Vanhala said he chose the top award "for the message the work contains. I saw it as a kind of summary of many ideas unfolding in the 500 entries for the exhibition: the concern for survival of genuine Alaskan culture and its commercialization in souvenir production, and the exploitation of Alaska's natural resources, and maintaining of authentic identity (amid) globalization processes."

The All Alaska Juried Exhibition is funded in part by a grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts; the National Endowment for the Arts; BP; the Anchorage Museum Association; and the Municipality of Anchorage.

Winter hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Discounted winter admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15. Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.

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